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TUSCALA

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Powell Thruston Manning

"Tusitala"*

(R. L. S.)

I

Teller of Tales from the passionless North,
True mate of the manifold brotherhood,
Swept by the winds and the drift and the surge,
Borne in on the hearts that you understood.

II

Strong was your breath with the cry of the sea,
Rife was your thought with the strife on the shore,
Quick was your maid with her love for her love,
Skilful your hand in the craft of your lore.

* Tusitala, "Teller of Tales." The name the Samoans gave Stevenson.

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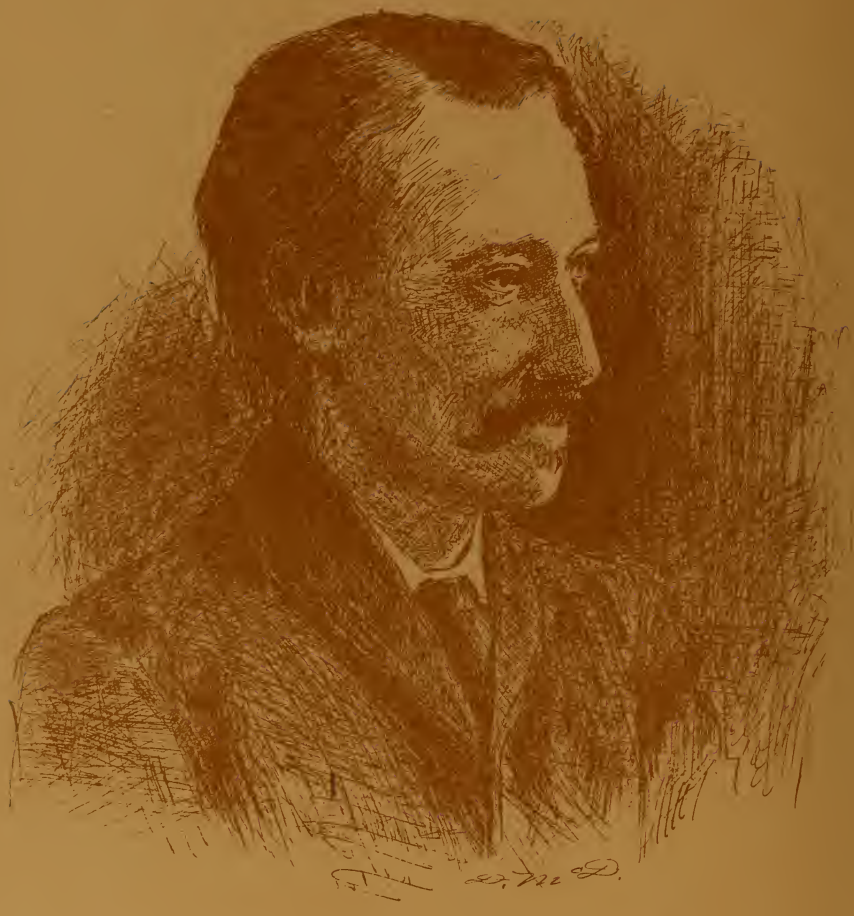

III

We know the tale of the hot, choking blood,
We see the shadow — the scroll on the wall,
We read the rhyme of the thorn in the rose,
We greet the courage unflinching through all.

IV

Stopt though your lips with the dust of our hills,
Hark to the Wind-god astir on the wold:
"Talofa lee!"* and the crags answer back,
"His spirit still lives in the tales that he told."

P. T. M.

* "Love to you, Chief." Samoan's greeting.

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